

*Levin**LW*

Mr. Charles A. Briggs
Inspector General

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You probably have received the attached in various forms, but here is what the version looks like at the Embassy, Tel Aviv. The reference in paragraph one to evaluation by State's IG of "all federal agencies" at overseas missions has raised questions in FBIS. Does this change anything for us?

Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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Attachment


14 April 1981

AMERICAN EMBASSY
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

March 18, 1981

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM NO. 20

TO: All American Personnel

FROM: ADMIN: D. T. Linville 

SUBJECT: Inspector General Authorities Under Foreign Service Act of 1980

REF: A) State 053820
B) State 039713

Following is the text of State 058820 on the role of the Inspector General of the Department of State (S/IG) under the Foreign Service Act of 1980. The Foreign Service Act 1980 establishes S/IG by statute and outlines the S/IG's responsibilities in statute. Previously the authority of the S/IG was based upon Departmental regulations only. The authority of the S/IG is extended to include the evaluation of the activities and operations of all federal agencies at an overseas mission. This new authority is consistent with the overall responsibility of the Chief of Mission.

"Section 209 of the Foreign Service Act establishes authorities and responsibilities for the office of the Inspector General of the Department and the Foreign Service that differ from existing Department regulations in a few key areas. The Secretary has asked that these be pointed out. These changes were made to align generally the operation of the office with those of other Inspectors General as created by the Inspector General Act of 1978, but with some exceptions that recognize the unique role of the Department.

Although the duties of Foreign Service Inspectors are established in the statutes going back to the Rogers Act of 1924, the position of the Inspector General has been provided for only in regulations. Now, it is established by Law as a position to which the Inspector General will be appointed by the President by and with the consent of the Senate.

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A key change in the new Act regards the timing of inspections. The 1946 Foreign Service Act required that all Diplomatic and Consular posts be inspected every two years. The new Act requires that all overseas posts, and all domestic bureaus or other offices, be inspected at least once every five years. This means the length of time between most inspections will be lengthened, although S/IG will continue to inspect selected posts or offices on a more frequent basis than five years.

The evaluative responsibilities of inspectors are outlined in the law under the new Act, not just in regulations. They include the traditional function of reviewing how effectively U.S. foreign policy goals and objectives are being implemented and U.S. interests are being accurately and effectively represented abroad. The key difference from existing regulations is on the requirement, as pointed out in Ref B, to detect, correct and prevent waste, fraud or other mismanagement. This has always been an objective of the Department, but the new Act puts primary responsibility for this effort on the Inspector General. We are in the process of developing a positive approach to this responsibility.

The Act mandates specific reporting responsibilities for the Inspector General under which he must report serious or flagrant cases of waste, fraud or other mismanagement to the Secretary as soon as they become evident. The Secretary, in turn, must transmit the report to the Congress within seven days. In addition, by April 30 of each year, the Inspector General must report to the Secretary on S/IG activities of the previous year, including major findings and recommendations that have not yet been implemented. The Secretary must transmit this annual report to the Congress within 30 days.

The Act authorizes the Inspector General to receive and investigate information from employees concerning possible instances of waste, fraud or other mismanagement. The Inspector General also has special responsibilities to protect such informants.

The new Act provides in law an enhanced authority for the Inspector General, under the general supervision of the Secretary, to review all activities and operations coming under the Chief of Mission (Ref B). The Inspector General is charged with evaluating the consonance of the activities and operations of all Federal Agencies at a post with U.S. foreign policy, and their consistency with the responsibilities of the Secretary and the Chief of Mission.

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Finally, the Act extends to the Department's Inspector General the same authorities extended to other Inspectors General under the Inspector General Act of 1978. Basically, these require the same degree of unhindered access to files and other information, and support to inspection and audit teams as are now required by regulations. The Act also provides for the assignment of Foreign Service personnel to the inspection corps, carrying on the provision of the 1946 Foreign Service Act.

We are now in the process of revising S/IG guidelines and procedures, and the pertinent portions of Department regulations to reflect the new Act. These revisions will be put into effect over the next few months."